

AA-784(B)

BUILDING NO. 39, U.S. COAST GUARD YARD

CURTIS BAY

Public (Restricted)

Building No. 39, constructed in 1928, is one of a group of storage sheds constructed during the period 1928-1943 at the U.S. Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay. Location of these buildings in the northeast section of the Yard, between railroad tracks on the north and the ship building and repair activities on the Cove waterfront, was a strategic one for the warehousing of lumber, small boats and office supplies. In the early days of the Yard, this area served a number of uses, mainly for location of horse stables and barns.

The sheds themselves are one story tall, gable roofed, wood frame structures clad in corrugated steel sheets on facades and roof, which rest on cement slab floors. They possess architectural significance in their resemblance to their 19th century English predecessors, the iron "Gloucester hut" first prefabricated on a large scale for use in the Crimean War in the 1850's for use by the British army as barracks and hospital buildings. These sheds, like their 19th century prototypes, consist of metal sheets bolted directly to a wooden frame, with an almost infinite capacity for longitudinal expansion according to need.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Building No. 39, Storage Shed

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

U.S. Coast Guard Yard

CITY, TOWN

Curtis Bay

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21226

COUNTY

Anne Arundel

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

U.S. Coast Guard

Telephone #: 789-1600

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Curtis Bay

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21226

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anne Arundel County Courthouse

Liber #: GW47

Folio #: 244

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

One-story storage sheds are found throughout the Yard as adjuncts to building and repair activities. Those found on the newer, western half of the Yard are generally modern mass-produced steel and aluminum sheds. On the historic eastern half of the Yard, generally concentrated in the northeast section above the Cove, are 15 sheds described in detail in the following survey forms. The first group of ten appear in a row perpendicular to the north side of Waesche Avenue between Ward Street and the eastern boundary of the Yard. Moving eastward from Ward Street, these are:

No. 38	No. 43	No. 24
No. 39	No. 21	No. 25
No. 41	No. 23	No. 26

This group is used primarily for lumber storage and warehousing of office and Yard supplies. The oldest among this group date from 1928 and replace earlier shed and stable structures, probably of wood construction. This group is immediately south of the B&O Railroad tracks, which were a service line running off the main lines serving Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County. Historic photographs (c. 1940) reveal that rail spurs ran off this main line between pairs of sheds, some of which are arranged with loading facades facing common alleys. These early rail sidings have been in disuse for some time and were filled in with concrete so that only level expanses of concrete paving now separate the sheds.

A second group of three identical sheds, Building No.s 44, 45, and 46, appears on the east side of Spanol Way between Waesche Avenue and Johannesson Way. These presently serve a variety of storage needs, housing paint, equipment, and small machinery parts.

The last two sheds among this group are Nos. 52 and 57, a pair of garages located on Glover Street southwest of the Spanol Way group.

Although the sheds vary slightly in materials of construction and present uses, they resemble in general the prefabricated galvanized iron "Gloucester hut" first used on a large scale by the British army as barracks and hospital buildings during the Crimean War in the 1850's.<sup>1</sup> All are one story gable roofed, wood frame structures. Most of the buildings' roofs and walls are covered with corrugated steel sheets bolted directly to a wood frame. Except for No.s 44, 45, and 46, which are built on a nearly square plan, most of the sheds are an extreme rectangular plan measuring 30 feet wide by 200 feet long. Most building frames rest on a cement slab floor. Since these sheds were not intended for human habitation, none are double boarded or insulated, as were their British predecessors.

<sup>1</sup>Gilbert and Herbert, Pioneers of Prefabrication: The British Contribution in the 19th Century. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978)

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY** (Description Continues)

## No. DESCRIPTION (continued)

No. 39 (1928) is identical to No. 38 in basic construction. It contains no windows, and its wooden gate facade is on its west side. Its north and south end walls are elevated from the slab floor by four short cement piers. No.s 39 and 38 share a common concrete alley (Spanol Way).

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1928

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The presence of a complex of storage sheds (Yard Building Nos. 38, 39, 41, 43, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 44, 45, 46, 52, and 57) in the northwest quadrant of the Yard testify to the vitality of the Yard as a center of industrial production, particularly during the period 1928-1943 when the sheds were constructed. The present sheds house lumber, boat molds, equipment, and industrial and office supplies for use at the Yard. The fact that these structures replace earlier stables, barns, and sheds on approximately the same location reflect the extent of the impact of rapidly changing modes of transportation during the early decades of this century upon Yard configuration. The conversion of this area of the Yard from animal stables and feed storage to storage of lumber and other boat building materials loaded directly off rail spurs between sheds (during the 1930's) to the present mixed storage uses of the buildings reflects the dramatic changes in modes of transportation in this country between the 1920's and World War II. The sheds possess architectural significance as a group because they replicate a technique of prefabricated corrugated metal construction first used on a large scale by the British army in the Crimean War during the 1850's. These "Gloucester huts", as they were called, were one story gable roofed constructions consisting of sheets of corrugated iron bolted to a wooden frame (see attached photograph). Typically used as barracks and hospital buildings, the huts were equipped with doors, windows, and ridge vents for ventilation. They were also double boarded and insulated with felt. They were particularly well suited to military uses since they were designed to allow their largest components to be carried by one person and allow construction on site with simple tools. Because of their highly standardized and easily assembled parts, they were capable of almost infinite lengthwise addition through erection of more wooden frame and iron sheathing. The Yard storage sheds are very similar to this early hut, except that they were mounted on permanent cement slab floors and are sheathed in corrugated steel. Double boarding and insulation were omitted since they were not intended for human habitation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See attached continuation sheet.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

See attached continuation sheet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Susanne Moore, Historical Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

August, 1980

STREET &amp; NUMBER

21 State Circle/Shaw House

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis,

STATE

Maryland 21401

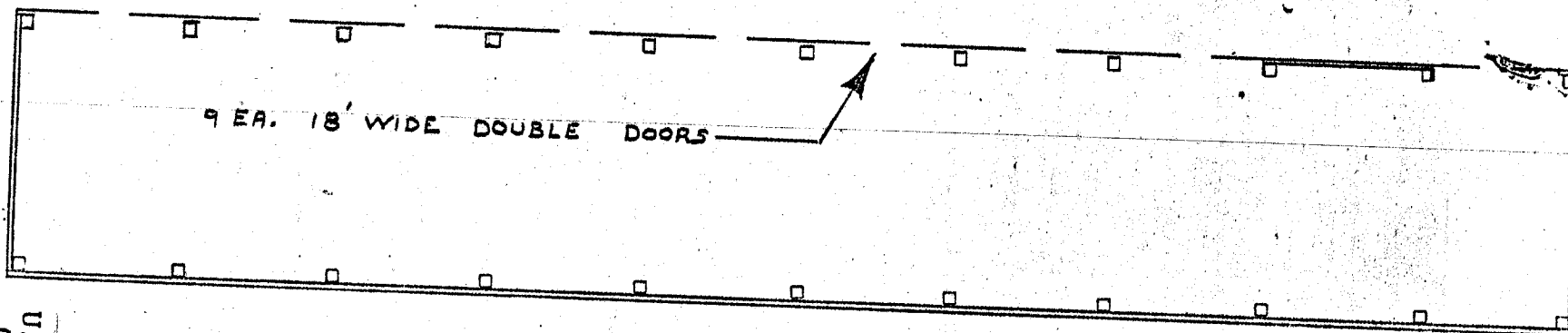
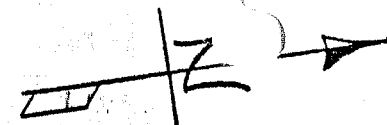
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

NOTE REGARDING RECOMMENDATION:

Building No. 39 is one of 10 Yard buildings scheduled for demolition by 1985 in keeping with recommendations made in the U.S. Coast Guard Yard Master Plan for Modernization and Capital Improvements of 1963. Recording of this structure as part of this survey report constitutes adequate documentation in the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer and Title J, Section 2(b) of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.



FLOOR PLAN

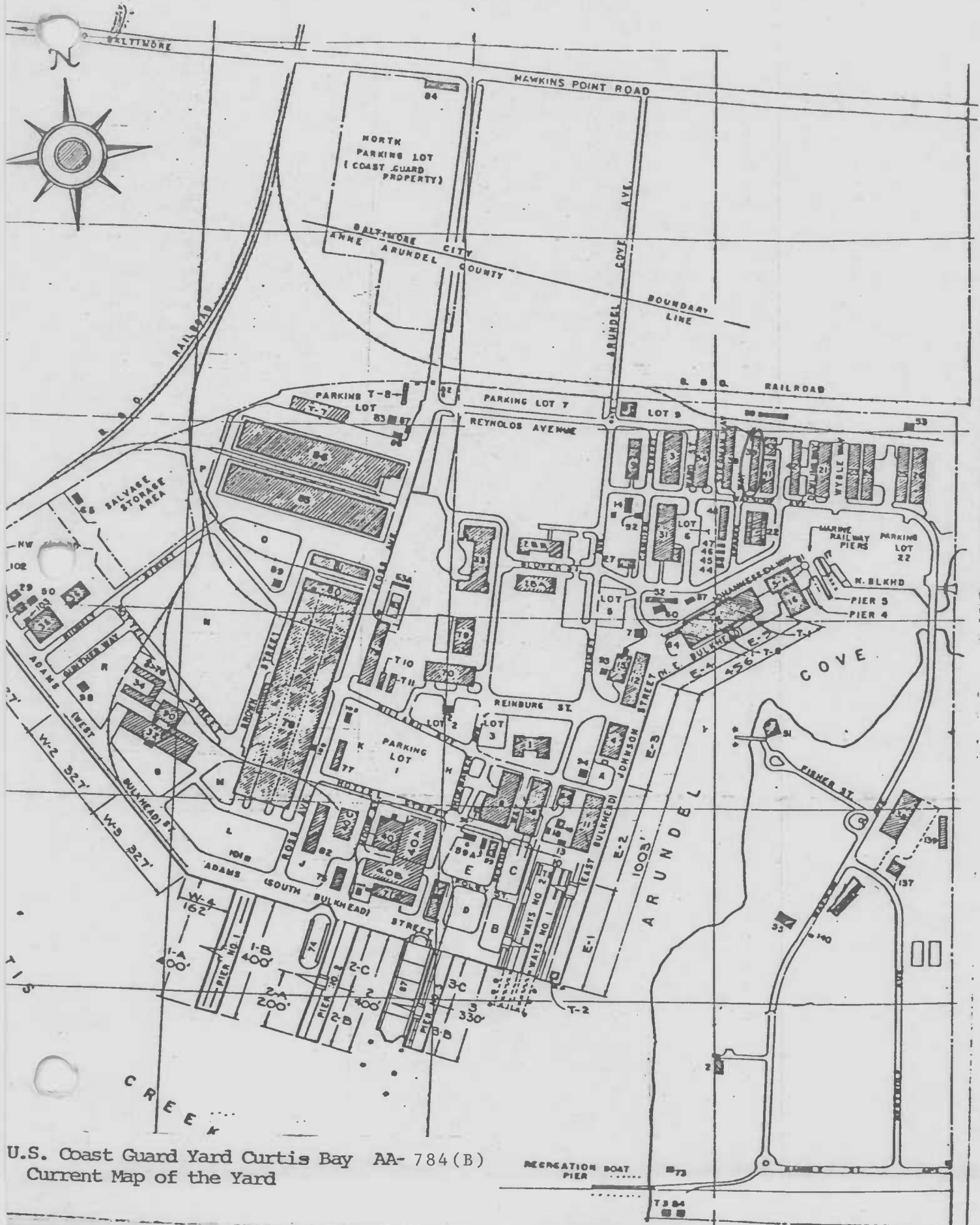
STORAGE AREA 30' X 180' = 5400 SQ. FT.

U.S. Coast Guard Yard AA-784(B)  
Curtis Bay - Bldg No 39  
Floor Plan  
From original on file in  
Yard Graphics/Repro Office

BUILDING NO. 39  
BOAT SHED  
APRIL 1974 SCALE 1"=20'  
DRAWN T.R. SHEET 1 OF 1  
CD 5-74



# YARD MAP



U.S. Coast Guard Yard Curtis Bay AA-784(B)  
Current Map of the Yard

RECREATION BOAT  
PIER

T-84



U.S. Coast Guard Yard      AA-784(B)  
Curtis Bay - Building NO. 39  
Anne Arundel County, Md  
Susanne Moore  
July 1981  
Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md  
Northwest corner  
1/2



U.S. Coast Guard Yard AA-784(B)

Curtis Bay - Building No. 39

Anne Arundel County, Md

Susanne Moore

July 1981

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md

Southwest corner

2/2